

# 'YES, VIRGINIA, THERE IS A SANTA CLAUS....'

Back in 1897 Charles A. Dana, editor of the New York Sun, published an editorial in answer to a letter received from one of its readers.

A letter to the Editor of the New York Sun . . . "Dear Editor"

I am 8 years old. Some of my friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says: "If you see it in the Sun, it's so." Please tell me the truth—is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia O'Hanlon  
115 E. 95th St.

The editorial has become a classic which has been published throughout the country thousands of times. It is a classic which never grows old. The Torrance Press takes this occasion to reprint it again. We suggest that you read this story to your children—and to yourself.

Virginia,

Your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except what they see.

They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible to their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little.

In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He

exists as certainly as love and generosity exists, and you know that they abound and give to our life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias.

There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance, to make tolerable this existence.

We would have no enjoyment except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies!

EDITORIAL

## JOHN KESSON AND THE NAKED TRUTH

The idea of North Torrance's toying with the possibility of seceding and annexing to Gardena suddenly found itself orphaned this week, with no one willing to admit paternal relationship.

"Desertion" seems to be a more accurate word, since the author of the secession idea, John Kesson, categorically denies having uttered such an "outrageous" thought.

However, we not only know that he clearly made such a statement to the editor of the Gardena Tribune, but he actually went to him with North Torrance's "story" plus a picture of himself.

Regardless of how Mr. Kesson might try to twist the facts of that interview, he will have a difficult time trying to dismiss a rather embarrassing statement which is down in black and white in the North Torrance Civic News, intended as the official organ of the North Torrance Civic Association of which he is president.

The statement reads: "North Torrance—a thriving city within a city with a population of over 25,000 persons, over 30% of the total population of Torrance, and yet, so little to show for our allegiance and taxes. A RICH PLUM INDEED FOR A NEIGHBORING COMMUNITY WITH MORE 'STRINGS' ATTACHED TO US THAN A MERE CRENSHAW BOULEVARD."

The implications of this statement are rather hard to wiggle out of.

There has been overwhelming evidence this past week that North Torrance residents do not share Mr. Kesson's views on this matter.

We believe that Mr. Kesson is embarrassed—but not because he was misquoted. He is embarrassed because he was quoted only too accurately.

The secession episode carries a moral, namely, that individuals in position of leadership and public trust cannot afford to toy with irresponsible statements.

North Torrance can hardly be said to be an orphan. It has the largest, most active, and best organized civic association in all of Torrance.

The organization always manages to make itself heard. Other sections of Torrance could profit from its example. We're all for it—within the bounds of responsibility.

## A. E. Thompson To Head Chamber Of Commerce

A. E. Thompson, general manager of the Torrance Refinery of General Petroleum corp., was elected president of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, it was announced today by Elections Chairman Dean L. Sears. He will succeed John A. Ebbinghouse of American Rock Wool corp.

Thompson, a native of Fredricktown, Missouri, graduated from Cal Tech in 1934 and was hired by the General Petroleum corp. as a junior inspector at the company's Vernon laboratories.

He began employment at the General Petroleum Torrance refinery in 1938 as a chemical engineer and has advanced steadily to the present position he holds as general manager of the Torrance Refinery.

He is a registered chemical engineer and member of both the American Petroleum Institute and American Institute of Chemical Engineers.

Active in Community  
Thompson has long been active in all types of civic endeavors which include past president of the Torrance Rotary club, member of the

A. E. THOMPSON  
... new president

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## John Kesson Denies Secession Statements

John Kesson, suddenly the center of aroused community reaction as a result of North Torrance secession statements made by him, was unavailable for comment this week to the Torrance Press.

Kesson, president of the North Torrance Civic Improvement association, was quoted as being dissatisfied with the way North Torrance has been treated and suggested that the area might consider annexing to Gardena.

The story was carried exclusively by the Torrance Press and the Gardena Tribune of the neighboring city.

Since that time, Kesson has denied ever making such statements, according to other newspaper reports.

After taking the city to task last week over the alleged lack of attention given North Torrance, Kesson said:

"I am only carrying out the wishes of the residents of

North Torrance who are coming to me daily and asking why we don't annex to Gardena. We expect to call an open meeting of the residents to get their definite reaction."

Following the publication of this statement, Kesson was reported as saying:

"It is not my view or that of NTICIA to annex to Gardena. We're very proud of Torrance, but we did want to get a little more done in the way of civic improvement in our area."

Kesson claims that he never made the statements attributed to him but that they may have originated from a news item in the NTICIA bulletin. The bulletin, he said, made no reference to the possibility of annexation.

The statement in the bulletin to which he had reference said significantly: "North Torrance—a thriving city within a city

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## Sidewalks Under Way For Lomita

Two miles of sidewalks, curbs and gutters are being constructed in Lomita through a private development program. It was announced this week.

Areas involved are the 262nd st. district, Woodward district, and 254th place.

The private plan saves property owners up to half the charge which would be made through the county, according to Roland J. Struve, contractor.

Lomita property owners signing for the plan are charged \$4.10 a linear foot for sidewalks, curbs and gutters. Cost through a county assessment district could run as high as \$8.90 a foot, Struve said.

The contractor explained that he is able to cut costs by requiring cash payments and because he is not required to make title searches that the county would include.

## CHRISTMAS BURGLARS ON PROWL

Police Chief Willard Haslam warned residents this week of burglaries during the Christmas season, stating that presents in homes and cars are tempting to thieves.

A number of burglaries occurred here during the past week including:

A five-foot figurine of St. Nick was taken from a Christmas tree lot at Gramercy st. and Carson st. according to the owners, Mr. and Mrs. George Crabtree.

Christmas trees valued at about \$150 were stolen from the WALTERIA Mower Service, 24245 Hawthorne ave. Friday night. Most of them were recovered but thieves made off with a cuckoo clock valued at \$115 instead.

Clothing of undetermined value were taken from a car owned by Eugene Anderson, 1920 Torrance Blvd., while parked in front of his home Friday night. Thieves broke a window to get in.

An unknown amount of money and cigars were stolen by a burglar who broke a rear window to enter a cafe at 3870 W. Pacific Coast hwy. early Saturday.

## Please Ask For Identification

Torrance Press readers are again asked to request carrier boys to show their identification cards before paying them for delivering the Torrance Press. ID cards carry the youngster's photo and other essential data. This is a protection for our carrier boys as well as our readers.

## ANOTHER MEETING ON STRIKE

Parties involved in the National Supply strike were scheduled to meet again today with Fred Ferguson, of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, following "exploratory talks" Monday.

Ferguson will meet with officials of the National Supply Co. and the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union-CIO.

The strike is now in its third week, having started December 3.

Unresolved issues involve 1) pay increase retroactive to November 1 1956; 2) time-and-one-half and double time as such for Saturday and Sunday, respectively; 3) unlimited time at company expense for unit chairman; and 4) a 2.1 cents per hour wage difference.

About 886 employees are out on strike.

## City Hall Bids Denied, Parking Seen

All bids received for the old city hall were rejected by the City Council Tuesday night. This action is generally interpreted as meaning that the old city hall will be removed now and used for off-street parking purposes.

Bids were rejected because they were considered too low. Plywood Manufacturing of California bid \$36,000 for the city hall and two lots while the Elks club bid \$50,000 for the city hall and one lot.

A \$3500 bid for a buffer strip was accepted from George L. Probert who owns a home adjoining to the city hall property. The buffer strip was sold to protect the residential area.

## It's Results That Count

Mrs. Lucille Sieben of 2117 Torrance Blvd. is really happy with us.

Whenever she runs her classified ad in the Torrance Press she just gets numerous calls. She didn't get any results in other papers at all, but she's pleased with the Press.

Her inexpensive ad read:  
IRONING & MENDING in my home. Very reasonable.  
P.A. 8-2151

Just call FA. 8-2345 and place your ad for similar results. It's only \$1.30 for 15 words. If you come into the office and pay for it before the date of publication you earn a 30-cent cash discount.



PARKING'S BETTER THAN EVER  
Another off-street parking lot has been opened in downtown Torrance for Christmas shoppers. The new lot is next to the old city hall on Cravens near El Prado. It was formerly the location of the old police and fire station. — Press Photo

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1956 — TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA

No. 35

# Horse Kicks Boy in Face

## YOUNGSTER IN CRITICAL CONDITION

A 10-year-old Lomita boy was kicked in the face by a horse whom he had been allegedly teasing last week. The youngster is in critical condition at Harbor General hospital.

Arthur Mullens, 10, of 25344 Pennsylvania ave., suffered cuts, concussion, and misplaced vertebrae when he was kicked in the mouth by a horse whom he had been teasing, according to Lennox Sheriff's reports.

Riding the horse was Joyce Wilson, 11, of 25306 Pennsylvania ave. who told officers that the boy had slapped the horse with a stick and was teasing him with papers.

She warned him not to get behind the horse and not to hit the animal. The boy apparently disregarded the warning and was kicked by the animal.

## Fire Victim Given Blood

Three-and-a-half year old Aurora Alvarez was still in critical condition this week from burns received when her dress caught on fire two weeks ago while she was reportedly playing with matches.

Local residents responded to a call for blood donations by contributing 22 pints of blood, according to A. L. Thomas, hospital administrator.



## SANTA'S MAIL BOX

Kenda Darlene Defrees, 3, of 1820 Torrance Blvd., happened by just in time to see Santa empty his special mail box in front of the Torrance Post Office. Helping to collect Santa's letters is Mrs. Clara Conner, postmaster. The special mail box was made by David Pullian, postal clerk. — Press Photo

## Know Your Gold Seal Merchants

By DAVID MCGRAW

Gold Seal Merchants who are outstanding leaders in their particular fields have been selected for their integrity and honesty and are especially pledged to uphold the highest code of business ethics.

Displayed in their window will be a Gold Seal which is the symbol of satisfaction when shopping.



Claude M. Wagner, owner of the Laundry Lounge, 1627 Cravens ave., provides one service in particular which has found favor with his customers—packaging. Instead of being thrown together haphazardly, the laundered items are neatly folded and packaged, making ironing unnecessary. "We wash everything," Wagner said, in commenting on his operation. He and his wife, Henrietta, came to Torrance one and one-half years ago at which time he opened the Laundry Lounge. He was born in Kokomo, Indiana. Wagner is a member of the Masons in Indiana and the Elks club of Torrance.



Stewart E. Rose, owner of Bud's T.V. Service at 3768 Pacific Coast Highway, WALTERIA, is an expert, reliable TV technician and HI FI expert whose scope of operation covers Torrance, Lomita and Redondo Beach. Besides specializing in television repairing, he also features Packard Bell TV and HI FI. He also operates a unique Hobby and Toy shop on the premises. Rose opened his service in 1950. Active in community affairs, he is a member of the WALTERIA Business Men's association. He is also a member of Masonic lodge. He was born in Paris, Kentucky.

## Final Week for Entering 'Dear Santa' Bike Contest

This is the last week to enter the "Dear Santa" contest which ends Monday morning, December 24, at 10 a.m. All letters must be in the Torrance Press office by that time.

This year a boy's and girl's Schwinn bike will be given away to the boy and girl who write the best letter to Santa Claus, in the opinion of the judges.

Any youngster may enter the contest simply by writing a letter to Santa Claus and sending it to the Torrance Press. Any youngster from elementary school age through high school may enter. Letters should be sent to: Santa Contest, Torrance Press, 1406 Cravens Ave., Torrance.

The Schwinn bikes have been donated by the Torrance Cycle and Sports shop, 1421 Marcelina. Ben and Paul Smith are owners of the shop which has been established locally for about 30 years.

All letters will be turned over to Santa Claus eventually. Any youngster living within the circulation area of the Torrance Press is eligible.

Some of the letters will be published from week to week.

There's no special topic on which to write—just write a letter to Santa.

## ENTRY BLANK

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

# A Merry Christmas to All Our Readers

STAFF AND MEMBERS OF THE TORRANCE PRESS